

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING PRESS SUMMARY, APRIL 17, 1978

NO. 8

1. WIRES

UPI -- ANDERSON FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: VANCE AND OWEN FAILED MONDAY TO WIN RHODESIAN AGREE-
MENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS DESPITE WARNING
THAT REFUSAL COULD BRING SOVIETS AND CUBANS INTO THE WAR.

OTHER POINTS:

--SMITH, ASKED AFTER MORE THAN FIVE HOURS OF TALKS WHETHER
HE HAD BEEN CONVINCED OF THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN
ALL-PARTIES MEETING, SAID: "I DOUBT IT."
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--ORIGINAL AA PLAN HAD BEEN TO CONVENE ALL-PARTIES MEETING
APRIL 25 OR 26. VANCE INDICATED THIS DATE WOULD NOT BE
MET, SAYING "THE RHODESIANS HAVE INDICATED TO US THEY
WISHED TO TAKE TIME TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY ON OUR PROPOSALS.

I THINK THAT IS A FAIR AND PROPER SUGGESTION ON THEIR
PART."

--ON WAY TO SALISBURY, SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE SAID VANCE
WOULD BE SATISFIED IF HE LEFT RHODESIA WITH ANYTHING

OTHER THAN A FLAT NO ON IDEA OF ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.

--BRITISH SOURCES SAID VANCE-OWEN WARNED OF DANGER OF GREATER SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AND SAID RHODESIAN LEADERS APPEARED TO BEGIN TO APPRECIATE DANGER THAT CONFLICT COULD BECOME INTERNATIONALIZED. BUT RHODESIAN LEADERS REPLIED THEY BELIEVE WAR WOULD WIND DOWN AND GUERRILLAS WOULD LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AS RESULT OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

--AFTER MEETING, VANCE SAID "WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK TO GIVE ALL THE HELP WE CAN TO TRYING TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA. I THINK IT HAS BEEN A USEFUL TRIP. I THINK PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE DURING THE TRIP. BUT THE ROAD AHEAD IS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE AND... NONE OF US UNDERESTIMATES THOSE DIFFICULTIES."

--VANCE AND OWEN WERE TWICE GREETED BY NOISY DEMONSTRATORS AS THEY ENTERED AND LEFT SITE OF TALKS. SOME WHITES SHOUTED "GO HOME" AND TWO WHITE WOMEN THREW COINS AT OWEN'S CAR SHOUTING "JUDAS, JUDAS."

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AP - SCHWEID FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: RHODESIA'S BIRACIAL GOVERNING COUNCIL AGREED MONDAY TO CONSIDER AA PROPOSAL THAT IT NEGOTIATE WITH BLACK GUERRILLAS WHO WANT DOMINANT ROLE IN TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. BUT THE COUNCIL, LED BY SMITH, REFUSED TO PROMISE VANCE AND OWEN THAT THEY WOULD MEET WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS. "OBVIOUSLY WE WILL GIVE GOOD AND MATURE CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSALS BROUGHT TO US TODAY," SAID SMITH.

OTHER POINTS:

--SMITH DID NOT SAY HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER TO MEET WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS. IN MEAN-TIME, SMITH SAID, RHODESIA WILL HOLD TO ARRANGEMENTS HE MADE WITH THREE BLACK MODERATES.

--VANCE SAID THERE WAS A "GOOD ATMOSPHERE" FOR TALKS BUT ADDED THAT "THE ROAD AHEAD IS VERY DIFFICULT."

--OWEN SAID SMITH WAS NOT PRESSED FOR A "SNAP DECISION" AND THAT HE (OWEN) HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT PROBLEMS AHEAD.

--NEARLY A THOUSAND BLACK REPEAT BLACK DEMONSTRATORS CONFRONTED VANCE-OWEN AS THEY ARRIVED AT TALKS SITE. DEMONSTRATORS SHOUTED SLOGANS IN FAVOR OF INTERNAL GOVERNMENT. (SCHWEID ALSO REPORTS "JUDAS, JUDAS" INCIDENT.)

REUTER -- GUTMAN FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: VANCE AND OWEN RAN INTO A WALL OF OPPOSITION MONDAY WHEN THEY TRIED TO PERSUADE (SMITH AND COMPANY) TO ATTEND ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. THEY WERE TOLD BY ALL FOUR GOVERNMENT MEMBERS THAT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS BEST HOPE FOR PEACEFUL TRANSITION, ACCORDING TO BRITISH AND U.S. OFFICIALS.

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OTHER POINTS:

--SMITH TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARD THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD GIVE "MATURE, GOOD CONSIDERATION" TO AA PROPOSAL AND WOULD ISSUE STATEMENT ONCE A DECISION IS REACHED. ASKED IF COUNCIL WAS CONVINCED OF BENEFITS OF ALL-PARTIES MEETING, SMITH SAID, "I DOUBT IT."

--SMITH SAID DISCUSSIONS IN SALISBURY WERE CONSTRUCTIVE.

-- OTHER PARTICIPANTS SAID TALKS MOVED VERY SLOWLY AND GENERALLY WERE UNPRODUCTIVE. FROM TONE OF THE EXCHANGES, THEY SAID, RHODESIAN LEADERS ARE CLEARLY NOT INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ALL-PARTIES MEETING. THEY SAID EACH OF FOUR INTERNAL LEADERS DEFENDED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND ASKED THAT WEST GIVE IT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

--VANCE QUOTED AS SAYING RHODESIANS INDICATED THEY WISH TAKE TIME TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY ON AA PROPOSALS, AND ADDED "NO ONE UNDERESTIMATES THE DIFFICULTIES."

--OWEN SAID THERE COULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BUT WOULD NOT PREDICT WHEN OR WHETHER ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE.

--GUTMAN ALSO REPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, THE "JUDAS, JUDAS" EPISODE, AND ADDS THAT VANCE-OWEN CAR WAS STRUCK BY "ROTTEN" EGGS AND TOMATOES.

2. NEWSPAPERS

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NOTE: THERE WAS NO DELIVERY TO DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY OF MONDAY'S LA TIMES. FOLLOWING SUMMARY IS OF LA TIMES

SUNDAY PIECE BY JOHNSTON DATED LINED DAR ES SALAAM, DELIVERED TO US MONDAY.

LEAD: U.S.-BRITISH EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT BOGGED DOWN SATURDAY WHEN GUERRILLA LEADERS OBJECTED TO MAJOR ELEMENTS OF AA PLAN.

OTHER POINTS:

--SIGNIFICANT DISAGREEMENT REMAINED AFTER TWO DAYS OF TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VANCE-OWEN AND NKOMO-MUGABE.

--RESULT WAS TO DIM HOPES A SUCCESSFUL ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD.

--VANCE AND OWEN FLY TODAY TO PRETORIA TO TRY TO GET SOUTH AFRICA TO HELP PRESSURE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO JOIN TALKS, THEN TO SALISBURY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH RHODESIAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

--BUT GIVEN DISARRAY IN THE WAKE OF TALKS IN DAR, DISCUSSIONS IN PRETORIA AND SALISBURY LOOMED AS ACADEMIC EXERCISES.

--NKOMO AND MUGABE IN TALK WITH PRESS UNDERSCORED UNCERTAINTY OF COMPREHENSIVE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.

--U.S. OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT "THE PF STILL THINKS IT IS DEALING FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH AND THE RHODESIANS ARE STILL CONFIDENT THEY CAN HOLD OUT."

--PF LEADERS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ALL-PARTIES MEETING BUT OBJECTED TO AA PLAN ON (1) INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR ZIMBABWE, OVER WHICH PF WANTS EFFECTIVE CONTROL;
(2) 12-MEMBER GOVERNING COUNCIL TO DIRECT TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH PF WANTS 60 PERCENT OF SEATS; AND
(3) BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, OVER WHOM PF WANTS MORE RESTRICTIONS ON HIS TEMPORARY POWERS THAN AA PLAN PROVIDES.

--IN SATURDAY'S MORNING SESSION, LITTLE COULD BE DONE TO CHECK DRIFT OF PF AWAY FROM AA PROPOSALS TOWARD NEW DEMANDS. IN MID-MORNING PUBLIC STATEMENT WAS MADE DECLARING PF READINESS TO ATTEND ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE, BUT HOLLOWNESS OF THAT CONCESSION SOON BECAME APPARENT WHEN NYERERE, WORRIED AT EROSION OF SITUATION, URGENTLY ASKED VANCE-OWEN TO MEET WITH HIM AT MIDDAY.

THINGS GOT NO BETTER IN AFTERNOON AND IT BECAME PLAIN THAT BEST THAT COULD BE SALVAGED IN DAR WAS STATEMENT PAPERING OVER DIFFERENCES THAT HAD EMERGED.

--BARRING UNFORESEEN SUCCESSES LATER IN TRIP, OUTCOME IN

DAR IS DECISIVE SETBACK TO ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO SHAPE
A PEACEFUL RHODESIA SETTLEMENT.

3. EVENING TELEVISION

NBC

ANCHOR CHANCELLOR: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND BRITISH
FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN SPENT HOURS IN RHODESIA
TODAY TALKING WITH THE NEW BLACK AND WHITE GOVERNMENT
THERE. THEY TRIED TO GET THE GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO
ATTEND A CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES TO THE RHODESIAN
DISPUTE, INCLUDING THE NATIONALIST GUERRILLA LEADERS,
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BUT THEY GOT JUST ABOUT NOWHERE.

VALERIANI: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT AN AMERICAN
SECRETARY OF STATE HAS VISITED RHODESIA, WHICH THE U.S.
HAS NEVER EVEN RECOGNIZED AS A COUNTRY. BUT VANCE SAID
HE WAS PREPARED TO GO ANYWHERE TO GET RHODESIAN PEACE
TALKS STARTED. ON THE WAY TO THE MEETING PLACE, VANCE
AND OWEN DROVE PAST DEMONSTRATORS OPPOSED TO INCLUDING
GUERRILLA FORCES IN THE NEW TRANSITION GOVERNMENT. THE
NEW GOVERNMENT PLANS TO HOLD ELECTIONS LEADING TO BLACK
MAJORITY RULE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. DURING THE SEVEN-
HOUR MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND THE THREE
BLACK MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, VANCE
AND OWEN ARGUED THAT A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT HERE CANNOT
BE LASTING UNLESS THE GUERRILLA FORCES ARE INCLUDED,
WHILE THE RHODESIANS ARGUED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT
SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO PROVE ITSELF. SMITH SAID
AFTERWARD THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD ANNOUNCE SHORTLY
WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL MEET WITH THE GUERRILLA LEADERS.
BUT HE ALSO SAID HE DOUBTED THERE WAS ANY BENEFIT TO SUCH
A MEETING. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE SPENT THE LAST
WEEKEND ARGUING WITH MARXIST GUERRILLAS AND HE'S JUST SPENT
SEVERAL HOURS TALKING WITH A GOVERNMENT WHICH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HAS BRANDED AS ILLEGAL. THE (INAUDIBLE) HAS
BEEN TO TRY TO STOP THE FIGHTING HERE BEFORE THE CUBANS
AND THE RUSSIANS ARE INVITED IN. AND ALL THIS RATHER
UNUSUAL DIPLOMACY IS ITSELF A KIND OF TACIT ADMISSION
THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE RUSSIANS
AND THE CUBANS RUNNING FREE IN AFRICA.

CBS

ANCHOR CRONKITE: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE MADE AN UN-
PRECEDENTED OFFICIAL VISIT TO RHODESIA TODAY PROMOTING
THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PEACE PLAN. HE DIDN'T GET AN ENDORSE-
MENT BUT NEITHER DID HE GET A REJECTION.
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BERNARD KALB: IT WAS A FIRST VISIT BY A SECRETARY OF STATE. THE U.S. REGARDS THE REGIME HERE AS ILLEGAL, BUT RIGHT NOW THAT'S A TECHNICALITY OVERSHADOWED BY ANXIETY. THE U.S. FEARS THAT THE CIVIL WAR WILL EXPAND AND THAT THAT WILL LEAD TO A STEP-UP IN SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE GUERRILLAS, HENCE THE URGENCY OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE OF ALL THE RIVAL RHODESIAN FACTIONS. VANCE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN. IT WAS HERE THAT THE U.S.-BRITISH DELEGATION MET WITH PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND THE THREE MODERATE BLACK LEADERS WHO MAKE UP THE COUNTRY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. DURING THE TALKS VANCE AND OWEN TRIED TO GET RHODESIA TO REVERSE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE AND TO RECONSIDER AN ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. THE BLACK LEADERS SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOCAL SUPPORT TO THE VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON AND LONDON: THIS LESS THAN SPONTANEOUSLY ORGANIZED CROWD CHEERING ITS IDOL, AMERICAN EDUCATED BISHOP MUZOREWA, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THESE HANDWRITTEN SIGNS REFLECTED THE ARGUMENT MADE BY THE COUNCIL IN AN EFFORT TO CONVERT VANCE AND OWEN TO ITS PERCEPTION OF REALITY: THAT THE NEW THOUGH CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL SET-UP HERE IS MOVING TOWARD BLACK MAJORITY RULE AND THEREFORE DESERVES NOT INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION BUT SUPPORT. THE MEETING IN EFFECT ENDED IN A STAND-OFF BUT TO THE AMERICANS AND THE BRITISH, EVEN THAT WAS MORE HOPEFUL THAN AN OUTRIGHT RHODESIAN REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN: WE DIDN'T COME HERE ASKING THEM TO MAKE A SNAP DECISION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THEY WILL
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WANT TO CONSULT AMONGST THEMSELVES AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO DO SO.

KALB: THIS VISIT TO SALISBURY WINDS UP VANCE'S MISSION TO AFRICA. IT FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY QUICK AGREEMENT TO CALL A RHODESIAN CONFERENCE, BUT THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN WILL TRY TO KEEP THE TWO SIDES TALKING EVEN IF THEY WON'T TALK DIRECTLY TO EACH OTHER IN THE HOPE THAT A CONFERENCE WILL EVENTUALLY EMERGE THAT WOULD PRODUCE PEACE RATHER THAN MORE VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA.

ABC

ANCHOR: THIS HAS NOT BEEN A PARTICULARLY PLEASANT DAY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE. IN SALISBURY, RHODESIA,

DEMONSTRATORS SHOUTED AT HIM AS HE DROVE TO A MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AND LATER, ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE AIRPORT, THE CAR CARRYING VANCE AND U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UN ANDREW YOUNG WAS HIT BY EGGS AND TOMATOES.

DUNSMORE: WHEN HE STEPPED OFF HIS PLANE TODAY, SECSTATE VANCE BECAME THE FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT RHODESIA. BUT VANCE AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN HAVE THE BLESSING OF BLACK AFRICA FOR THIS MISSION. THEY ARE HERE TO GET RHODESIAN LEADERS, BLACK AND WHITE, TO AGREE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE OF ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE. THERE IS LITTLE SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MEETING HERE, AND THE DEMONSTRATORS, REPRESENTING THE BLACK LEADERS WHO RECENTLY REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SMITH REGIME, WERE ON HAND TO CHEER THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFER SUPPORT FOR THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. FOR THEIR PART, VANCE AND OWEN MADE THE POINT THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL ONLY RESULT IN A MAJOR CIVIL WAR, WITH POSSIBLE SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT THAT COULD ENVELOP ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. AFTER SOME SIX HOURS OF TALKS THE RESULTS, AS EXPECTED, UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE INCONCLUSIVE.

VANCE: THE RHODESIANS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WISH TO TAKE TIME TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY UPON OUR PROPOSALS. I THINK THAT IS A FAIR AND PROPER SUGGESTION ON THEIR PART.

DUNSMORE: A MAJOR WAR IS STILL IN THE OFFING. SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IS INCREASINGLY INEVITABLE. WHAT MIGHT BE SAID IS THAT THE MEETING DEMONSTRATED TO IMPORTANT BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS THAT THE U.S. HAD DONE EVERYTHING IT COULD TO PLAY THE PEACE MAKER. HOW WORTHWHILE THAT WAS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. CHRISTOPHER

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